In his dispute about uncleanness with the Pharisees (7:1-23) Jesus quotes loosely from *Isaiah* 29:13. According to the prophets, not all the religious ritual in the world - sacrifices, ritual washing, fasting and penance - can alter the colour of a man's heart in God's sight (see *Isaiah* 58:6-7; *Amos* 5:21-24). The rules and regulations about uncleanness were based on the idea that God is holy, and totally "other". Because He is holy, He might be upset or offended by anything that reminds Him of our bodily functions. Jesus explains that true religion is about attitudes. Many rules and regulations relating to these matters are to be found in the Bible. Some were not in the Bible. The Pharisees who promoted them claimed that they were rules which derived ultimately from Moses and which had been passed on by word of mouth. Jesus appears to reject them completely. To make matters worse, people were using these petty rules to avoid more weighty obligations. One of these is quoted - the rule of "Corban". Religion was being used to avoid what is clearly a moral requirement. The Old Testament Law quite clearly laid down the obligation to honour one's parents (*Exodus* 20:12; 21:17).

D7. BOWYER BIBLE PRINT 4384. A DISPUTE WITH THE PHARISEES PASSERI